



**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**

Director David Bintley CBE

**H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME**

Friday 16 June 2017

COPPÉLIA

Production supported (1995) by David Lloyd

Music Léo Delibes

Choreography Marius Petipa, Enrico Cecchetti and Peter Wright

Production Peter Wright

Scenery and costumes Peter Farmer

Lighting Peter Teigen

Swanilda Nao Sakuma
Franz Joseph Caley
Dr Coppélius Michael O'Hare

ACT I

Swanilda's Friends Arancha Baselga, Karla Doorbar,
Reina Fuchigami, Delia Mathews,
Alys Shee, Yaoqian Shang
Burgomaster Jonathan Payn
Innkeeper Rory Mackay
Coppélia Emilia Rouanet Feliu
A doll
Gypsy Daria Stanciulescu
Mazurka and Czárdás Yvette Knight, Yijing Zhang,
William Bracewell, Tom Rogers

INTERVAL

ACT II

Oriental Doll Johanne Monfret
Spanish Doll Rachele Pizzillo
Scottish Doll Miles Gilliver
Soldier Dolls Alexander Bird, Aitor Galende

INTERVAL

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ACT III

The Duke Tom Rogers

His Aide Tim Dutson

Festival of the Bell

Father Time Rory Mackay

Dance of the Hours Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

Dawn Alys Shee

Prayer Delia Mathews

Work Laura Day, Rosanna Ely,

Reina Fuchigami, Anna Monleon,

Beatrice Parma, Rachele Pizzillo,

Brooke Ray, Daria Stanciulescu

Betrothal Ruth Brill, Lewis Turner

Call to Arms William Bracewell

and

Gabriel Anderson, Alexander Bird,

Feargus Campbell, Aitor Galende,

Miles Gilliver, Brandon Lawrence,

Max Maslen, Lachlan Monaghan

Peace Nao Sakuma, Joseph Caley

Students on the John Pinder Studentship programme and the Robin Cadbury Studentship programme appear by kind permission of the Principal and the Artistic Director of Elmhurst School for Dance. Children are from Birmingham Royal Ballet's Dance Track programme

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Koen Kessels; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



Approximate timings

Act I 35 minutes; Interval 20 minutes;

Act II 30 minutes; Interval 25 minutes;

Act III 32 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 10pm

The story

ACT I *The square of a village in eastern Europe*

Dr Coppélius has spent his life developing his mystical powers, which sometimes work but more often than not don't! His ambition is to bring Coppélia, one of his mechanical dolls, to life. One day Coppélius puts Coppélia out on the balcony; he is delighted when everyone believes she is a real person. However, Swanilda is not so pleased when she is ignored by Coppélia but Franz, her sweetheart, gets plenty of Coppélia's attention. The Burgomaster arrives and suggests that Swanilda tests Franz's faithfulness with an ear of corn – if it rattles she will know his love is true. The Burgomaster announces that the Duke has invited everyone to a fête, where the 'Masque of the Bell' will be performed to celebrate his gift of a new bell to the church. After everyone has departed, Swanilda and her friends return to decorate the square for the festivities. They decide to enter Coppélius's house to look for the mysterious girl on the balcony. Franz then returns with the same idea.

ACT II *Dr Coppélius's workshop, later the same night*

Inside the workshop Swanilda and her companions discover

Coppélia and are astonished to find that she is only a doll. Coppélius returns and drives them all out, except Swanilda who hides. Franz appears; Coppélius threatens to punish him. He then has second thoughts and, by putting a sleeping draught in some wine he offers Franz, he makes him fall asleep. With the help of a book of magic, he tries to bring Coppélia to life using Franz's spirit.

ACT III *The gardens of the Duke's mansion*

The bell is presented by the Duke, who presents gifts to Franz and Swanilda and another couple who have announced their wedding. Coppélius arrives, angry that his doll has been ruined, but the Duke placates him with a gift. The masque begins with dances that illustrate the uses to which the bell will be put: the call to prayer, work, the announcement of a marriage, the call to arms and, finally, the declaration of peace, in which we see Swanilda and Franz express their true love. As everyone departs Swanilda and Franz invite Dr Coppélius to join them as the festivities continue.